

Exhibit No. 13

Date 3-18-11

Bill No. HB 2

TESTIMONY
OF
LEROY SPANG,
PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Before the
Senate Finance and Claims Committee

March 18, 2011

My name is Leroy Spang. I am the President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has 9,830 members, most of whom reside on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeast Montana. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the 2012-13 budget.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe's Department of Tribal Health operates community health and wellness programs under state and federal contracts and grants. The Department of Tribal Health operates a Montana Tobacco Prevention Program ("MTUPP") and a Women, Infants and Children ("WIC") program with funds provided by the State of Montana. Both of these programs are targeted to critical needs of the Northern Cheyenne people.

Montana Tobacco Prevention Program

The Montana Tobacco Prevention Program ("MTUPP") is a community based program that addresses the use of all forms of commercial tobacco products. The MTUPP program uses best practice methodologies to prevent tobacco use among youth and promote quitting among adult users. The key features of our MTUPP program include building community level capacity for tobacco prevention work; preventing local youth from beginning a lifetime of addiction to tobacco products; eliminating exposure to the hazardous effects of secondhand smoke, and actively

supporting the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act of 2005; and, eliminating disparities related to tobacco use and its effects among certain population groups such as women of childbearing age, Native Americans and low income residents.

Tobacco prevention services are necessary because the mortality rate for Native Americans in Montana is twice as high as the total population of Native Americans in the United States. The prevalence of cigarette smoking in the Native American population is nearly twice as high as the population of cigarette smokers in Montana. Native American youth are two and one half times more likely to be smokers than non-Native youth.

Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program

The Women, Infants, and Children ("WIC") program provides supplemental food vouchers and quarterly health screenings to over 550 clients each month. Our WIC clients are pregnant mothers, newborns, infants, children up to age five (5), and mothers who breastfeed. Services include counseling for nutritional risk factors and providing recommendations to correct dietary deficiencies, and growth risks and factors in newborns, infants, and children.

The benefits of the WIC program to our members are numerous. The WIC program helps identify high risk factors in our Native American children, and address these factors at an early age. Through this program we are able to raise healthier children by providing nutritional food supplements for our children and families. The need for food supplements is great because of the high unemployment, poverty level and general limited access to quality food sources, such as fruits and vegetables, in our local communities. At the end of each month, when food and

budgets are tight, WIC is a source of supplemental food many families depend on for their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the Montana Tobacco Prevention Program and the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program. These programs, and the many other programs provided by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, provide services that are critically needed in our communities, and on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, I urge you to continue adequate funding for these programs.

Please contact me at the Northern Cheyenne Capitol Building, Lame Deer, Montana, if I can provide you any further information about the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's Tobacco Prevention or WIC programs.